



NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES: July 2005

Conflict Mitigation

- Almost 28,000 former MNLF are now sustainably producing corn, rice or seaweed. Of this total, 5,709 have been trained to produce higher value-added products such as vegetables.
- 260 "Community Infrastructure Projects", and 11 "Mid-scale Infrastructure Projects" have been constructed or are underway in barangays throughout the ARMM and other conflict affected areas of Mindanao. Completed projects are benefiting more than 570,000 people in the region (many of them the families of former MNLF combatants).
- 578 pre/post-harvest facilities installed benefiting some 400 communities in the ARMM and other conflict affected areas of Mindanao.
- 20 cellular phone facilities established with USAID assistance in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi.
- 224 Rural Bank units providing microfinance services profitably, lending to about 204,528 microenterprise clients, of which 85% of borrowers are women.
- 41 partner savings and credit unions implementing best practices in portfolio management and expanding financial services to the poor, reaching more than 511,266 members, of which 73% are women.
- 548 villages in the ARMM promoting community peace and developing capacity for alternative dispute resolution, giving marginalized and disadvantaged groups greater access to justice.
- 125 top, middle and front-line managers in the ARMM representing the regional and local governments and civil society organizations provided training in the design, development, implementation and management of social and economic projects.

Economic Governance

- USAID assistance in economic policy, trade and investment provided critical support for:
 - passage of the Optical Media Law for a stronger legal framework for IPR protection;
 - passage of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004 for the enhanced use of ADR in settling disputes instead of litigation;
 - an improved Super Green Lane customs processing program and a management information system for effective enforcement of the Intellectual Property Code;
 - improved capacity of the Securities and Exchange Commission with its market surveillance system;
 - integration of Microfinance Best Practices into law and regulation;
 - promotion of "Roll-on/Roll-off" systems to allow greater efficiency in inter-island transport; and
 - increased capacity of the Department of Agriculture for proper implementation of biotech regulations.
- reduced conflict and increased access to justice for the disadvantaged, especially women, through assistance for:
 - improved systems and materials for case flow management;
 - civil society inputs to Supreme Court reform;

- 1,500 Filipino judges and court personnel trained on the new code of conduct developed by the Supreme Court; and
- Bar Examination reforms.
- USAID support for the GRP's anti-corruption efforts resulted in:
 - PhP62.9 billion (US\$1.2 billion) record high monthly tax collection in the history of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in April 2005 due to pursuit of high-profile tax evasion cases;
 - improved anti-corruption effectiveness of the Revenue Integrity Protection Service;
 - 44% conviction rate against corrupt officials by the Office of the Ombudsman in the first quarter of 2005 (against 25% for all of 2004, and 6% prior to receiving USG assistance);
 - 41% increase in the Office of the Ombudsman's 2005 budget; and
 - up to a seven-fold reduction in time for the business permit renewal process in seven Mindanao cities.

Energy and Environment

- 136 local governments improving management of more than 185,061 hectares of coastal areas.
- 21 local governments improving management of more than 284,000 hectares of forest cover.
- Establishment of the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation to support local forest conservation efforts.
- Passage of landmark Clean Water Act and the ARMM's Sustainable Forest Management Act
- Adoption of the Presidential Executive Order Promoting Sustainable Forest Management.
- 6,844 households, 143 community centers and 319 streetlights in 227 remote communities of former combatants with sustainable renewable energy systems (in partnership with private sector).
- 132 of 140 utilities rates unbundled, 80 utilities inter-class subsidies removed, and two-thirds of intra-grid subsidies removed.
- 1,597 bus and jeepney operators trained on preventive maintenance to reduce emissions and save on fuel and oil costs.
- Two memoranda of understanding signed with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and local partners to promote investment in water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Provided critical support for the passage of the ARMM's Sustainable Forest Management Act.

Family Planning and Health

- 2.05 population growth rate GRP estimate for 2005 (from census figure of 2.36% in 2000).
- 49.3% contraceptive prevalence rate – all family planning methods in 2004
- 81% of population enrolled in National Health Insurance Program in December 2004 (from 54% in 2003).
- 87.6% Vitamin A Capsule Supplementation coverage in 2004 (from 76% in 2003)
- 140 products and brands of processed foods with Sangkap Pinoy Seal certified as fortified with vitamin A, iron and iodine in 2005. (from 62 in 2004)
- 63% (by 2003) TB detection rate (versus global target of 70%) and 77% TB cure rate (versus global target of 85%) achieved.
- <3% HIV seroprevalence rates among high-risk groups maintained.
- 75% awareness of modern methods of contraception (from 43% in 2003) and 35% practice of modern methods of contraception (from 33% in 2003).
- 149 private midwife clinics providing FP and health services through a franchise network.
- 388 local governments better management and delivery of family planning, tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment, maternal & child health, HIV/AIDS (selected cities) and other health services.

- 70 Barangay Health Workers in Sulu and Tawi Tawi trained on TB-DOTS (directly observed treatment short course) approach.
- ARMM Strengthening for Health Initiatives (ASHI) developed and adopted.

Access to Quality Education and Livelihood Skills

- 194 schools in the ARMM and other conflict-affected areas introduced to computer and internet education, benefiting about 206,000 students and 6,263 teachers.
- 165 schools with Parent-Teacher Community Associations financing education improvements, benefiting about 135,000 students in conflict-affected areas.
- 50 recent graduates of ARMM universities and colleges served as interns in the Philippines House of Representatives to develop greater understanding of how legislation is developed and enacted; recruitment is currently ongoing for the next batch of 20 interns.
- 170 trainers trained by the Peace Corps in training-the-trainer programs for elementary and secondary level teachers of English and Information Communication Technology from ARMM, Western Mindanao and Central Mindanao. The trainers, in turn, trained 774 teachers.
- 70 schools in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, assisted through educational television for capacities upgrading for teaching science, math and English.
- 13 madari pilot new curriculum that adds math, science, and English instruction to courses in Islam and Arabic language.
- 24 facilitators/instructional managers of the Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency (ALS A&E) Program trained in the curriculum framework, process and mechanics of the ALS and assessment and counseling of learners.
- 127 out-of-school youth started to undergo a 5-month skills training program to enhance their opportunities for employment/self-employment.
- 25 elementary and secondary teachers trained in a training of trainers program for the use of supplementary audio materials, consisting of listening guides and locally-developed culturally sensitive lesson plans, in improving English proficiency.
- 160 teachers trained on the implementation of Effective Alternative Secondary Education (EASE), an in-school/out-school strategy for students to complete their secondary schooling.

Humanitarian Assistance

- 40 participating local and international NGOs and multi-lateral agencies participating in the Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN) and committing to provide coordinated response to victims of armed conflict, including construction of water systems, sanitation facilities and multi-purpose centers; livelihood projects; and conduct of community-based disaster preparedness training sessions.
- 15,807 IDP families or 94,842 estimated individuals who were victims of both conflict and natural disasters such as flash floods provided with non-food assistance.